Dear Veterans, Military Families and Supporters,

Please find a number of resources below to benefit veterans and military families. They are not endorsed by my office, just a compilation of programs and services that come across my desk. Please feel free to share and vet according to your needs. If you have anything you would like me to share, please forward it. Thank you.

Lisa Terry

Events/Programs

- Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families meeting Thursday, March 2 at 7pm 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive Columbia, MD 21046
- NAMI Peer to Peer Class Peer-to-Peer is a unique, experiential learning program for people
 with any serious mental illness who are interested in
 establishing and maintaining their wellness and recovery. THIS 10 WEEK PROGRAM IS FREE!!!
- <u>Brain Training for Military Spouse and Veteran Caregivers</u> High performance brain training known as Strategic Memory Advanced Reasoning Training or SMART. Please select a Military Spouse and Veteran Caregiver Class (No charge)*
- Women in Government Contracting Leadership Forum March 8, 7:30am-4pm in Columbia, MD. This presentation will cover the current state of the defense and government services market and ways for management teams to build shareholder value in advance of an exit. The current budgetary environment has created new challenges and opportunities for government contractors. This panel will focus on strategies contractors may use to better position their business over the entire company life-cycle (e.g., start-up to mid-tier contractor.)

Topics will include: Available borrowing for small businesses - what a lender evaluates, A review of current federal market trends, Public company performance and valuation metrics, The current M&A environment and transaction drivers, Effective strategies to build shareholder value, Viable exit alternatives for privately held firms, and Debt financing alternatives for acquisitions.

- Operation Family Caregiver Blue Star Families (March 8 & 9, 2017 from 9:30am to 12:30pm)
 Silver Springs, MD
- Virtual Town Hall The VA Maryland Health Care System, in partnership with the Baltimore VA Regional Office (VBA), is hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the VA Maryland Health Care System Facebook page at Facebook.com/MDVAHCS.

We've already received some great questions and comments that we will answer and address at the start of the event. We will then respond to any new questions that are posted in real time.

How about you? Whether it's a lingering question, something you've never quite understood, or something new you need help with, this is your opportunity to connect virtually with local VA

leadership. Submit your questions by March 2, and then plan to join us live on Facebook on March 9 at 3 p.m.

Note: The Virtual Town Hall will begin with an introduction and a caution to participants about posting any private health care information or personally identifiable information. As needed, participants will be directed to use the private message feature on Facebook, which offers a confidential means of communication.

For more information about Virtual Town Hall, please call the Community Outreach Office for the VA Maryland Health Care System at 1-800-949-1003, ext. 6071 or email us at VAMHCSPublicRelations@va.gov .

- MOAA National President to speak at Montgomery County Chapter March 15 perspectives
 and outlook on factors likely to affect the entire uniformed services community.
- NAMI March Education Forum Tuesday, March 21st at 7pm, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia. Light refreshments will be served
- <u>Veterans Upward Bound Women's Luncheon</u> March 25, 11am-1pm Prince Georges Community College
- Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day March 30, 4-8pm Greenbelt, MD
- African American Art Museum of Howard County event flier March 12, 2-5pm Fulton, MD
- Howard County Caregiver Conference Flier March 25, 9am-3:30pm Glenwood 50+ Center in Cooksville, MD
- Fort Meade Alliance Industry Day March 29, 7:30am-11am BWI Marriott
- <u>Fort Meade Alliance Fundraiser for Future Education and Resiliency Center</u> **April 27** in Clarksville, MD
- Howard County Veteran Resource Fair Tues, April 4, 2017. 5-8pm at 50+ Center in Ellicott City. 40+ vendors, companies recruiting veterans for employment, breakout sessions and networking!
- Fort Meade Centennial Calendar

Armed Services Arts Project:

Storytelling Course w/ Story District

• Overview: The Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) is thrilled to partner with Story District to offer a free storytelling class for veterans, service members, military families, and caregivers.

Turn good stories into great performances in this five-week Storytelling 101 course. Called the "gold standard in storytelling" by the Washington Post, Story District's master teachers will walk you through the steps of mining your memories to identify good story material; developing a narrative structure; and connecting with an audience. The course will culminate with a graduation performance for friends and family.

- Where: Story District, 3329 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20010.
- When: Saturdays, **April 29th through May 20th**, 1PM 4PM | Graduation show scheduled for the evening of **May 24th**.
- To Apply: Please submit your online application by visiting
 http://www.asapasap.org/storytelling-application. If you have any questions, please contact sam@asapasap.org.

Intro to Solo Performance w/ Nilaja Sun, Woolly Mammoth Theater (THIS WEEK)

- Overview: Join Obie award winning playwright, actor, and teaching artist Nilaja Sun for an Intro to Solo Performance workshop, in advance of her upcoming solo show PIKE ST. at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Participants will engage in writing exercises designed to (a) teach a variety of play-writing techniques, and (b) encourage them to find their artistic voice. This workshop will also include a variety of physical and vocal warm-ups in service of crafting and differentiating multiple characters.
 - Where & When: Saturday, **March 4th,** 10AM to 1PM at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, 641 D St NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.
 - Who: Free for veterans, service members, military family members, and caregivers.
 - To Apply: Please submit your online application by visiting http://www.asapasap.org/solo-performance. If you have any questions, please contact sam@asapasap.org.

DC Veterans Writing Group @ Capitol Post

- Overview: Published author and Gold Star Mother Carlene Cross will lead a session on "leap-off-the-page" writing. You'll review techniques and exercises that will help you create active, compelling, and powerful work—narrative that readers can't put down.
- When: Saturday, March 11th from 1PM-4PM.
- Where: Capitol Post, 625 N. Washington Street, STE 425, Alexandria, VA.
- RSVP: If you plan on attending the Veterans Writing Group session, please complete the Veterans Writing Group RSVP form.

Smokin' and Jokin' Comedy Show @ Vendetta Bocce Bar

- Overview: ASAP and <u>Vendetta</u> are excited to kick off a new, Veteran-focused, monthly open mic
 night featuring, of course, veterans, service members, and military family members from the
 Greater DC area! This showcase provides a platform for veteran artists to showcase their
 talents, express themselves, and have their voices heard in front of members of our local
 community. This is an opportunity for the civilian and military world to connect through
 comedy, dispel stereotypes and misnomers, and have an awesome time in the process.
- When & Where: The comedy showcase is set for Thursday, **March 9th** at the Vendetta Bocce Bar and Tavern (1212 H St NE, Washington, DC 20002). Doors will open at 7:30PM and the event will begin at 8PM sharp.
- Tickets: General admission tickets are \$5 online and at the door -- all proceeds from ticket sales
 will directly support ASAP's arts classes and workshops. Food and drinks will be available for
 purchase throughout the show! Reserve your ticket by following this link.

Employment and Educational Opportunities/Job Fairs

<u>Dog Tag Inc Fellowship Program</u> - works in partnership with Georgetown University to deliver a professional development program designed to prepare military veterans with service connected disabilities, spouses and caregivers to find success as they transition into the civilian workforce. This five month program will assist in translating military experience to workplace skills and provide tools to prepare for interviews and apply for jobs. They are accepting applications now for their Summer 2017 class. Application deadline: April 19, 2017

DMAC Security – now hiring veterans as armed security guards in Baltimore region

Veteran Hiring Event - March 1 at Morgan State Flier

Military Hiring Event - March 10 at Eastpoint Mall

Fort Meade Technical Job Fair - March 25

Jobs in Colleges and Universities

NSA Career Opportunities

Graphics Design Boot Camp (free and paid)

<u>Recruit Military</u> – Vet Ten Newsletter including companies recruiting veterans for employment, subscribe at http://recruitmilitary.com

MaxOutreach Job Openings

Several Job Openings at PNC Bank - Branch Manager, Sales Associate and Bank Tellers

https://sjobs.brassring.com/TGnewUI/Search/Home/Home?partnerid=15783&siteid=5130

Resources for Veterans Looking to Learn to Code - organizations that empower veterans who want to learn to code and transition into a career in the technology industry. Nonprofit, for profit, scholarships available, some accept GI bill, some online classes...

Veterans Learning to Code programs

MDVA Weekly Jobs

Living Legacy of MD open jobs

Veterans Cemetery Caretaker, Location: Prince George's County

Description: To conduct all tasks associated with the interment of veterans and their dependents and

the maintenance of cemetery grounds, buildings and equipment.

Application Closing Date: March 9, 2017

<u>U.S.VETS</u> Job Openings—The Nation's largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive services to homeless and at-risk veterans is hiring for three positions in the DC Metro area.

Program Assistant(Located in DC)

http://www.idealist.org/step/discover/share/jr/view/job/btbZ4c74mtBD/

Business Development Associate(Wil Serve DMV area)

http://www.idealist.org/step/discover/share/jr/view/job/hBMTxtCSPTBD/

SSVF Case Manager II(Will serve DMV area)

http://www.idealist.org/step/discover/share/jr/view/job/32sgBs9DFtwSP/

Hire Served Job Openings

The BioTechnical Institute of Maryland (BTI) is an established nonprofit whose mission is to provide tuition-free, specialized job training for underemployed Marylanders to help them transition into careers in the life sciences industry. Their social venture BioSciConcepts offers cutting-edge life sciences workshops designed for industry professionals, which helps fund BTI programs. They are in search of an Associate Director who will provide leadership and fundraising capacity, advancing the mission of BTI. (

<u>Finch Services Career Fair</u> – March 7 in Westminster, Service, parts, admin

Veteran Upward Bound educational opportunities at Prince Georges Community College - Our program is a TRiO, federally funded non-profit organization that offers **free** core classes such as Math, English/Writing, Science, Basic Information Technology and Foreign Language at no cost to the veteran. While in the program, students are exposed to tutoring, financial literacy, professional and personal development workshops among other opportunities to increase the veterans' intellectual, cultural, and social wellbeing. Once again, our services are free, and all that is required of them is a willingness to be

successful in pursuing a degree. The courses we offer have the availability to be taken online, and the software that we have paid for can be utilized in the comfort of the veterans' home. Being that we are federally funded, we must first serve those that are low-income and/or first generation. All veterans must have a discharge that cannot be dishonorable.

Scholarship

The <u>VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"</u> provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say "thank you" to those who fought for our freedoms.

<u>1 Student Veteran program</u> - offers direct assistance to student veterans who have questions or are experiencing problems accessing their VA benefits. Our direct access to VA Regional Offices across the country means we can work quickly to provide our student veterans with timely and accurate answers regarding the complex claims process.

To Receive regional job openings:

Gayla R. Jenkins-Bailey MSW, MHRM

Disabled Veteran Outreach Program

Job Service Specialist II

Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation
11002 Viers Mill Road, Suite 100

Wheaton, MD 20902

gayla.jenkins-bailey@maryland.gov
301-929-4350 ext. 2006 (office)
301-929-4383 (fax)

- Lucy Jensen | Military Civilian
 http://www.military-civilian.com
 (310) 455-2002 | lucy@military-civilian.com
- <u>Jim Ditt</u> with Career Fairs to receive information on employment opportunities, career fairs and more
- Linked In Organizations Veteran Mentor Network, Military Officer Association of America (MOAA)

Resources for Veterans who want a career	

Legislative Updates – These bills are in the Senate so voice your opinion

WINGMAN Act -

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain employees of Members of Congress and certain employees of State or local governmental agencies with access to case-tracking information of the Department of Veterans Affairs - To permit veterans to grant access to their records in the databases of the Veterans Benefits Administration to certain designated congressional employees, and for other purposes. Arguments in Favor and Opposed

HIRE Vets Act - Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2016 or the HIRE Vets Act - This bill directs the Department of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to solicit voluntary information from employers for purposes of recognizing, by the award of a HIRE Vets Medallion, verified efforts by these employers to: (1) recruit, employ, and retain veterans; and (2) provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community.

<u>BRAVE Act</u> - **Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act or the BRAVE Act** - This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give preference to offerors based on the percentage of the offeror's full-time employees who are veterans.

<u>Veterans Day as School Holiday</u> - House Bill 1412

Delegate Herb McMillan has asked for veterans to come to testify in favor of this bill in Annapolis on Feb 28th.

Email: McMillan, Herb Delegate Herb.McMillan@house.state.md.us

Phone: 410-841-3211 | 301-858-3211 | Toll-free in MD: 1-800-492-7122 ext. 3211

Newsletters and Other Resources

Blue Star Families Military Lifestyle Survey – executive summary of top military issues

Local author and former undercover NSA employee shares his story

VFW Action Corps Weekly, Feb 24

VFW Advocacy National Legislative 2017 Priority Goals

Reserve Voice, Feb – articles relating to military careers and family

Serving Together News, Feb 20

Bugle Blasts, March 2017

<u>Parent Pages, February</u> - A quarterly digital publication from the Howard County Office of Children and Families

Global Chamber Baltimore Washington Chapter - Global Chamber is an organization focused on supporting global business and expanding trade. The organization provides assistance for small, mid-sized and large businesses and it helps organizations with a local focus, like chambers, associations, and city and county develop teams, to extend their reach to the world.

<u>Young Marines</u> - The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

<u>JustServe</u> - JustServe.org is a website where the volunteer needs of organizations may be posted and volunteers may search for places to serve in the community. JustServe provides opportunities to relieve suffering, care for the poor and needy, and enhance the quality of life in the community. JustServe is not for proselytizing or publicity—it is simply a service to help link community volunteer needs with volunteers.

NAMI Newsletter, March 2017

Veteran Scams

Maryland Matters – new website providing information on MD govt and politics

VFW Unmet Needs Financial Assistance

In My Area Relocation Service - Relocating can be the most difficult part of your PCS, there is a house to find, a truck to pack and a country to cross. Don't let setting up your home services slow you down. At InMyArea.com you can find, shop, compare, and save on Internet, Cable and Satellite TV, Utilities, Solar, Insurance, and Mortgage Rates.

<u>Child Care Assistance</u> – Army Fee Assistance Program

Child Care Aware® - 1(800) 424-2246 (703) 341-4101

Fee Assistance - 1(800) 424-2246 (703) 341-4103

Payments - 1(800) 793-0324 (703) 341-4199

Provider Services - 1(800) 424-2246 (703) 341-4146 Army Fee Assistance Program - Army - Child Care Aware of America usa.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespite/military-families/army/

Fort Meade MWR Highlights – Feb 28-Mar 7 - Sign Up for MWR Weekly Highlights

EFMP Sip and Share

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) invites you to a sip and share on March 2, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the USO Pavilion (8612 6th Armored Calvary Road). Come join us and share stories to encourage one another about the various resources available in our local community. Please call 301-677-4779 for more information.

Stress Management

Are you stressed? Want to learn about your warning signs and how to deal with the everyday pressures of life? Join us for a stress management workshop on March 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Fleet and Family Support Center. Call 301-677-9017 to register for this class!

Movie and Nacho Night

Grades 6 – 8th and their families are invited to the Youth Center on March 3, 5:30-9:00 p.m. for a movie night. Come enjoy a family friendly movie with your loved ones. The nacho bar will be open and available. Call 301-677-1437 for more information.

American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Courses

Are you interested in becoming a lifeguard? Sign up for Gaffney Fitness Center's Lifeguard training class being held March 4,5,11 and 12 from 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Course will include the complete American Red Cross certification, First Aid and CPR/AED. Cost is \$250 and all participants must register in person at Gaffney Fitness Center. Please call 301-677-7916 for more information or visit our website at www.meade.armymwr.com.

Teen Acting 101

Teens in grades 9-12th are invited to join us on March 6 beginning at 4:00 p.m. for an acting class. Teens will learn various introductory exercises to improve their acting techniques. For more information please call 301-677-6054.

Driver's Education Course

Does your teenager need their driver's license? Enroll them in our upcoming certified course being held April 10-21, 3:00-6:15 p.m. at the Teen Center. The cost is \$320 per student; this includes, 30 hours of classroom education and 6 hours of behind the wheel training. All participants must be registered with CYS prior to enrolling in class. Registration begins on March 6. Spots limited! Register early! Please call 301-677-1156/1149 for more information.

Dollars and Sense

This course will help you better understand your relationship with money. Topics include: basic budgeting, financial goals & priorities, saving & investing, and managing your credit. Class will be held at the Community Readiness Center on March 7, 9:00–12:00 p.m. Call 301-677-5590 to register or www.fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com.

Military Saves Week

Consider attending the below classes to stay financially fit!

March 1: Thrift Savings Plan, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Post Theater)

March 2: Getting out of Debt, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Army Community Service)

March 3: Car Buying Class, 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. (Army Community Service)

Register for classes at www.fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com. Please call 301-577-5590 or visit www.meade.armymwr.com for more information.

Weekly Lunch Menu for the Lanes:

February 28: Chicken tenders, small fries and drink \$9.00

March 1: Italian Day \$8.50

March 2: Chicken tenders, small fries and drink \$9.00

March 3: Fish Fry \$9.00

March 6: Meatball sub, small fries and drink \$9.00

March 7: Tuna sandwich, small fries and drink \$8.00

Call 301-677-5541 for more information. Take out available!

Murphy Weight Room Floor Replacement

Murphy Field House is excited to announce that the weight room floor replacement is currently in the contracting process. It is anticipated that this project will take 2-3 months to complete. Once this project is finished, Murphy Field House will re-open the Nautilus and weight room to our patrons. While work is being completed, please utilize Gaffney Fitness Center's weight room and NEW Functional Fitness areas.

Thank you for your patience while we work to provide you with a high quality work out area.

LTS March Customer Appreciation Drawing

Visit Leisure Travel Service and enter to win four tickets to the Maryland Zoo or B&O Railroad Train Museum. Enter Monday-Friday during normal business hours. No purchase necessary! Call 301-677-7354 for more information.

Pre-Natal Yoga Class

Join us for Pre-Natal Yoga on Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center. This class will help you safely explore poses to build strength, work with flexibility, and support your ever-changing body. Breath practice will be integrated to find ease and calm the mind as you prepare for birth. We will also address common pregnancy discomforts as well as benefits for baby and you. All classes will end with relaxation time. All levels, trimesters and partners are welcome to attend. Come out and try a class for only \$3! Classes are open to all authorized users ages 18 & older. For more information call 310-677-2349.

Family Child Care Providers Needed

Do you love taking care of children? Interested in working from home? Become a certified Family Child Care Provider! Providers will receive valuable training such as: activity organization, USDA approved meal planning, designing learning environments, child development and becoming infant/child/adult first aid & CPR certified. If interested please contact the Family Child Care office at 301-677-1160.

Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey Circus Tickets

Come see the last performance of "The Greatest Show on Earth" at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore from April 1-30. Numerous show times are available. Tickets prices vary. Get your tickets early at Leisure Travel Services, based on a first come first serve basis. Call LTS, 301-677-7354 for more information.

Texas Hold 'Em Tournaments

All ranks, services, military, or civilian are invited to play every Monday and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Lounge of the Lanes. Tournament is free to enter. Top 3 winners will receive gift cards! Food and beverages are available for purchase. Call 301-677-5541 for more information.

Arts and Crafts Center Customer Appreciation Special

Stop by the Arts and Crafts Center frame shop during the month of March and receive 15% off when you bring in a military print or photo to be framed. Our Custom Framing Shop offers a wide variety of frames and conservation-quality mat boards in every color imaginable. Our professional custom framers will help you design your project from start to finish. Visit us at 6530 York Avenue or call 301-677-7809 for more information!

*** UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS ***

St. Patty's Day Boot Camp

Come work up a sweat on March 11, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Murphy Field House. Get the ultimate circuit based workout! Bootcamp will combine intervals of cardio drills and muscle conditioning exercises to provide you with an intense total body workout. This event is free to Fort Meade patrons 18 years old and up! Please call 301-677-3716 for more information.

Banking Basics

Need help deciding where and how to do your banking? Join us on March 14, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Community Readiness center to learn how to manage, balance and reconcile your bank accounts. Topics include: banking and credit union services and checking account management. This class serves as

refresher training for personnel who have abused and misused check-cashing privileges. Please call 301-677-5590 or visit www.fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com to register.

Right Arm Night

Bring your Right Arm service member, co-worker or employee to Club Meade for a fun evening of free food, music, dancing and camaraderie on March 16 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Free event! Win great prizes! Open to all ranks and all services, military or civilian. Reserve your table today by calling 301-677-6969.

Babease Bootcamp

Do you have a bundle of joy on the way? Join us on March 17, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program Center – 2462 85th Medical Battalion Avenue to learn about a range of topics to take care of your new baby. Topics will include: Ages and Stages of Development, Breastfeeding Basics, Infant Care, Nutrition and Budgeting for Babies. All participants will receive parenting enrichment books and diapers bags. Please call 301-677-4118 to register for the class.

Technical Job Fair

Looking for employment? Visit the Job Fair on March 22 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Club Meade to meet eager employers. Event is open to the public. For a list of all attending employers please visit our website at www.meade.armymwr.com.

Harlem Globetrotters Tickets

Come check out the talented Harlem Globetrotters at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore on March 25. Tickets prices vary depending on location. Get your tickets early at Leisure Travel Services, tickets available while supplies last! Visit Leisure Travel Services at 6530 York Avenue or call 301-677-7354 for more information.

Tax Info

<u>Howard County Tax Credits</u> – now accepting applications for property tax credits for seniors and retired military

Homeowners Property Tax Credit Program

Homeowners Property Tax Form

Renters Tax Credit

Senior Tax Credits

<u>Making Change</u> – provides free tax preparation for income eligible, as well as financial literacy and advising

Tax Time Tips

Administrator, Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families Howard County Government Department of Community Resources and Services 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500 Columbia, MD 21046

Office: 410-313-6400 Direct: 410-313-0821

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans

The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships,

Consumer Protection, Local Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.

The Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families (OVMF) provides guidance, information and access to the more than 20,000 veterans who live in Howard County, as well as their dependents and survivors, and military families. The OVMF also promotes activities for veterans of all ages and collaborates with other service providers to address more complex issues.

Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families https://www.howardcountymd.gov/vetcomm

Department of Community Resources and Services Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/HoCoCommunity/

Commission on Veterans and Military Families Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/HocoMilitary/

Reserved Veteran Parking Initiative

Honor veterans living and working in Howard County by installing a Reserved Veteran Parking sign at your place of business or in honor of a loved one.

http://www.howardchamber.com/chamber information/veteran parking sign initiative.aspx